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BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

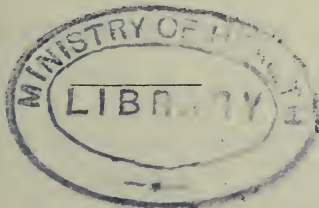
OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1954



R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Sanitary Inspector.

Boldon Urban District Council,

1954.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. TRACEY, J.P. (died August, 1954).

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR R. McDARMONT.

COUN. T. BROWN.	COUN. L. HANNAH
„ J. J. EGGLISHAW.	(Elected May, 1954)
„ R. FARROW.	„ MRS. M. WEST.
„ JOS. W. SHAW.	„ J. W. WILLS.
„ MRS. M. A. SIMPSON.	„ O. CLARK.
„ J. TATE.	„ J. R. PEARS (Elected 21/8/54).

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

Chairman of the Housing Committee :

COUNCILLOR S. ROBINSON, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector : R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.S.I.A.,
A.M.I.S.E.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS L. SPOUR.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Baldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit my fourteenth Annual Report of the Health Department, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. W. Armstrong.

The following are the main features of the Vital Statistics for the year, 1954.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates the total population for the Baldon Urban District to be 17,600 for mid-year 1954, this figure shows an increase of 160 compared with 1953.

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population for 1954 is 18.8 compared with 19.6 for 1953. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for 1954 is 15.2.

The Still-Birth Rate for this district is 0.2. The number of Still-Births in the area was 4.

STANDARDISED DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate for 1954 is 13.4 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 2.4 on last year's figure. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1954 given by the Registrar General is 11.3. The total number of deaths in the Urban District were 198 an increase of 11 compared with last year's figure which was 187.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The number of Births in excess of deaths in 1954 was 133.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births is 30.2 for 1954, this shows a decrease of 9.8 on the figure given for 1953. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for this year is 25.5.

A review of the Statistics over the past years shows the present day population in this area to be the highest for 18 years.

Visits were made to cases of aged and incapable persons, at Whitburn and Boldon Colliery. In one case of mental deficiency the patient has after a great deal of persuasion, been placed upon the waiting list for institutional treatment. It seems that there is a shortage of this type of hospital accommodation and so far the patient cannot be accommodated.

Posters were distributed throughout the district to remind the population of the importance of immunisation against Diphtheria. Tuberculosis posters have also been displayed, stressing the importance of early diagnosis.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Five cases of this disease were notified during the year in the months of July, August and October. One of these was not confirmed, three of the four confirmed cases were of a paralytic type, but fortunately only one patient was seriously disabled. After a long period in the hospital she was sent home, but is still receiving Physiotherapy treatment for the correction of the paralysis.

In general the health of the population of the district is extremely good, and there is no particular point other than that mentioned above, to which I have to draw the Council's attention.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times, and the assistance given by the Council staff.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

*Health Department,
June, 1955.*

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1954 is 17,600.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1954	53	36	89

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1953	47	37	84

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1954.**Births and Birth Rates.**

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	173	158	331
Legitimate	170	158	328
Illegitimate	3	.....	3

The Crude BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 18.8.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS	3	1	4
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is .2.

Deaths and Death Rates.

During 1954 there were 198 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

109 males, and 89 females.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 11.3.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1954.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	} Standardised Death Rate.
1951	16,740	17.8	12.7	
1952	17,150	18.5	11.1	
1953	17,440	20.1	11.02	
1954	17,600	18.8	11.2	

Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures for deaths include those of members of the armed forces who are stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e.) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area). Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are Births 0.96, Deaths 1.06, these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

Infantile Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The Causes of Death were :—

Multiple congenital defects	1
Asphyxia	1
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1
Toxaemia	1
Prematurity	4
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	1
Broncho Pneumonia	1

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 30.2.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1954 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
1950	23.7
1951	16.7
1952	15.4
1953	40.0
1954	30.2

The Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954, are shown below for comparison.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Standardised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1950	17,100	17.2	12.1	23.7
1951	16,740	17.8	12.7	16.7
1952	17,150	18.5	11.1	15.4
1953	17,440	20.1	11.02	40.0
1954	17,600	18.8	11.2	30.2

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1954.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1954 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	0	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	7	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2
16. Diabetes	1	3	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	20	36
18. Coronary disease angina	15	13	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	6	10	16
21. Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
22. Influenza	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis	9	1	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	0	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	3	0	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	10	22
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	3	0	3
34. All other accidents	5	3	8
35. Suicide	0	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
<hr/>			
All causes	109	89	198
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A comparison of this table with last years shows a decrease in deaths from Suicide, Cancer, Heart Disease and Congenital Malformations but an increase is shown in deaths from Pneumonia, Accidents, Vascular lesions of the nervous system, Tuberculosis and Bronchitis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 1954.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5, and at the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1954, are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	2	Negative	
Negative	35		
	<hr/> 37 <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cars or ambulances required for the transport of patients are ordered by the Doctor, Midwife, Dentist or Nurse or covered by a production of a medical certificate.

The principal ambulance station for the area is 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, telephone Hebburn 32157.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION.

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunization, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record of immunization is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday a reminder is sent in the form of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunization. Contact is again made when the child

reaches the age of four years nine months. Vaccination also comes under the Durham County Council, information and form of consent is sent to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

The inhabitants are provided with a Queen's Nurse, District Nurse and two Health Visitors, each health visitor is responsible for the supervision of a separate district and are employed by Durham County Council.

DOMESTIC HELP.

Home Helps are provided for necessary cases by the County Council Home Help Service.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under five years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, once a week (Tuesdays) under the supervision of Durham County Council there is also a Clinic and Welfare Centre, held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn alternate Thursdays.

Representations have been made to the Durham County Council to provide Clinic facilities at some convenient point to serve Cleadon and East Boldon.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases of Infectious Diseases where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases is still in operation.

WELFARE AND CARE OF THE AGED SICK AND MENTALLY UNSTABLE PERSONS.

During the year I visited several premises in which the inhabitants were old and unable to look after themselves properly, and also visited the homes of some mentally unstable persons. One male person suffering from Hydrocephalus has been placed on the urgent waiting list for institutional care.

Several other cases were visited by the Sanitary Inspector in the course of his duties.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1954 was 239, this figure excludes Tuberculosis and shows an increase of 107 as compared with 1953.

MEASLES accounted for 188 of the cases and showed an increase of 100 on last year's figures. There were 21 Whooping Cough cases, a decrease of 10 on last year's figure which was 31.

DIPHTHERIA. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. 298 Records have been received of Immunization against Diphtheria this year an increase of 122 as compared with last year.

SCARLET FEVER. 19 notifications were received, an increase of 16 on last year. However, all cases were of a mild nature and capable of being nursed at home.

POLIOMYELITIS. 5 cases of Poliomyelitis were officially notified, one of which was not confirmed. 3 of the remaining cases were Paralytic but of these only 1 child, a girl, was seriously disabled, she is now having regular corrective treatment.

FOOD POISONING. No case occurred in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS. 16 Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified which is the same as in 1953 and there were 3 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases, as in the previous year. 6 deaths occurred during the year.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing, as usual, is carried out by our staff where there is a case of Diphtheria, and also for Scarlet Fever, on the termination of the period of isolation where the patient is nursed at home. Special forms are issued for the doctor in charge to sign when he considers the premises are ready for disinfection.

Disinfections are also carried out at the houses where there has been a death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Visits are made to all notified cases of important infectious diseases, the history of each case taken, and investigations made of all possible source of infection,

and where possible the premises and infectious articles are disinfected at the same time.

Diphtheria Prophylactic for immunizing against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for the issue to local doctors. Diphtheria Antitoxin is available from Chemists and Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Bottles of Disinfectant are issued, as usual, from the Health Department on receipt of a Doctor's note or Health Visitor's slip.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1954, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1949	16,870	1	.....	5	16	6	1	2	.....	36	3	1	2	.....
1950	17,100	2	.....	5	20	8	1	1	.....	96	27	9	.....	1
1951	16,740	.....	.....	6	18	4	.....	3	2	65	48	.....	.....	.....
1952	17,150	.....	.....	17	19	1	1	5	.....	85	57	1	.....	3
1953	17,440	1	1	3	16	3	.....	3	.....	88	31	1	.....	3
1954	17,600	.....	.....	19	16	3	...	4	1	188	21	5	.....	.....

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1864.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Cases notified in each Ward.						
	AT AGES—YEARS.																		
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Cleaton
Scarlet Fever	19							1						6	4	1		1	8
Whooping Cough	21	1	6	2	1	6	5	11						13	1	2			4
Diphtheria																			
Measles	188	8	37	33	40	37	31	2			1			12	4	5	43	120	4
Pneumonia	4													1				1	
Acute Poliomyelitis																			
Acute Encephalitis	5			1			4							3		2			1
Dysentery																			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																			
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1									1	
Smallpox																			
Paratyphoid																			
Enteric or Typhoid																			
Food Poisoning																			
Erysipelas																			
Chicken Pox																			
Measles	1								1									1	
Cholera																			
Typhus Fever																			
Total	239	9	43	39	43	45	52	3	2		1	2	35	9	11	43	124	17	

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 19 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 6 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis. Both were Pulmonary cases.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
0-5 .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
5-15 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15-25	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25-35	3	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
35-45	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
45-55	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
55-65 .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
65 and upwards	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	10	6	1	2	3	3	.....	.....

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the details of the sanitary administration in your district during the year 1954 which is my sixth annual report as your Sanitary Inspector.

During the year the long awaited Rent and Repairs Act, 1954, came into force, and although it is somewhat early to venture a detailed consideration of this bill, at face value it is not the improvement to housing law and administration that was hoped for. The standard of suitability for occupation for instance is not high and the loss of the comparison standard means that a number of houses, although very old and lacking practically all amenities will continue to stand. This standard is also the yardstick by which the state of repair of houses will be judged. Which means that a house may be suitable for occupation in a poor state of repair. The clauses dealing with rent increases depend upon the interpretation of "good repair", and can take up an amount of time quite out of proportion to the sums of money or the repairs involved.

The derationing of meat early in the year at very short notice gave an unexpected and difficult task to the Local Authority who were ordered to see that slaughtering facilities were sufficient for the needs of the district. After fifteen years many private slaughterhouses had been used for other purposes, and some were beyond repair. Fortunately the Co-operative Society's premises were still available, and on their application for a licence they agreed to allow the facilities to be used by any other butcher in the district. The licence was granted for the maximum period, but all the parties concerned await the Government's decision on centralized slaughtering with keen anxiety.

Generally sanitary conditions in the district are very good. The trades people, builders, and inhabitants being very co-operative and appreciative of any advice

or assistance, realizing that costly errors may be avoided by consultation with your officers.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their continued encouragement and support during the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,
Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied principally by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supply from a shallow well.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supply of the Area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations of the water were made during the year 1954 from various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply; also from the various reservoirs and from consumers' taps and the following results were obtained :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml</i>	<i>B.Coli %</i>		<i>Pos. in 1 ml</i>
			<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 10 ml</i>	
Wells ..	134	92.5	7.5	1.5	.....
Other Sources	122	99.2	0.8	.....	.....
Reser- voirs	109	96.3	3.7	.....	.....
Taps	75	100.0	.....	.....	.....

(iii) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) The water is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

(v) (a) There are 5,570 domestic premises connected to the Company's supply mains in the Boldon Urban District Council's area.

(b) There are no standpipes in the area.

A typical chemical analysis and Bacteriological Examination of the water supply is given below :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	Parts per Million.
Total Solids	303
Chloride.....	38
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride	63
Total Hardness	231
Permanent Hardness	78
Temporary Hardness	153
Nitrogen as free Ammonia	Nil.
Nitrogen as Nitrate	1.7
Nitrogen as Nitrite	Nil.
Iron	Nil.
Colour (Hazen degrees)	5.0
Total Hardness (degrees)	16.2
Temporary hardness (degrees)	10.7
Permanent Hardness (degrees)	5.5
Inspections carried out during the year :—	
Complaints received during the year	180

HOUSING.

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of Houses inspected	429
No. of visits made	724

UNDER HOUSING ACT.

No. of Houses inspected	290
No. of visits made	491
Cases of overcrowding investigated	3

DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.

No. of inspections	13
Miscellaneous visits	29

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated	35
Number of visits made	40
Number of houses disinfected	52
Lots of Bedding disinfected or destroyed	25

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to Butchers' Shops	202
„ Bakehouses	141
„ Fishmongers	25
„ Ice Cream Premises.....	11
„ Restaurants and Cafes'	111
„ Grocers	48
„ Dairies	11
„ Other Food Premises	43
„ Slaughterhouses.	46

GENERAL SANITATION.

Visits in connection with :—

Drainage	155
Piggeries	75
Tents, Vans, Sheds	22
Factories	247
Workplaces and Offices	41
Theatres, Public Halls	1
Rats and Mice	278
Squatters' Camps	8
Watercourses	31

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses built and occupied during the year	181
Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	429
Number of Houses inspected under the Housing Act	290
Total number of visits made in connection with the above	1,215
Number of Houses closed voluntarily by the owner.....	1
Number of houses unfit for human habitation, in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	Nil.

Number of Houses found to require repair under the Public Health Act	58
Number of Houses found to require repair under the Housing Act	51
Number of Houses repaired under Public Health act after formal notices by the Local Authority	8
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the Local Authority	19
Number of Houses repaired under the Public Health Act as a result of informal action	50
Number of Houses repaired under the Housing Act as a result of informal action.....	32
Total number of defects remedied	364

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, 3,863 yards of new drains were examined and tested. The general standard of work is good, but occasionally poor workmanship necessitates the taking up and relaying of newly laid pipes. The great majority of new houses are connected to the sewerage system but during the year three new houses have been built which had to make use of cesspools for sewage disposal. The Council's mechanical emptier removes the cesspool contents at regular intervals. Two septic tank installations were overhauled and put into good working order.

The reconstruction of the Council's sewerage and storm water drainage systems in the district was practically completed at the end of the year. The National Coal Board carried out a drainage scheme for Boldon flats by means of ditches draining into the storm water sewers, and this has so far this winter been very successful.

All the sewers in the district convey the sewage to tidal waters in the River Tyne and off the coast to the east, where it is discharged in a crude state.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of additions have been made to the Sanitary accommodation in the district, as shown by the table below :—

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Ash Closets	68	68	65	64	59
Water Closets	5,566	5,585	6 014	6,168	6,353
Chemical Closets	29	29	29	28	28

Five Ash Closets were converted to water closets.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious case of pollution has occurred. One person was cautioned for having discharged a quantity of crude sewage into a stream.

A pig breeder who is building new and more commodious premises sought the advice of the department on methods of disposal into an adjoining stream. After careful study of the cost and on the advice of the River Board Officers, the owner agreed to make provision for pumping the sewage to the nearest sewer as being the most satisfactory solution to his difficulties.

SQUATTERS CAMPS.

Five families are still accommodated in Army Huts at Red Barnes Camp, Wardley. The huts are now in a very bad condition and extremely difficult to keep in reasonable repair. During the year, two families were rehoused and the huts returned to the War Department who are anxious to have unrestricted use of the site for the territorial army.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are five sites in the district used for the stationing of moveable dwellings. Of these only three are used for commercial purposes and standings rented to caravan owners. The Local Authority have byelaws in force and little difficulty is encountered.

The caravan owners are responsible for providing suitable chemical closets and ashbins for their own use, and the farmers collecting the refuse and disposing of it from each caravan, providing facilities for emptying the chemical closets, and providing adequate and suitable water supply.

The majority of these caravans are used only for holiday periods and at weekends.

SCHOOLS.

No complaints have been received during the year about sanitary conditions in schools, and the water supplies by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company are satisfactory. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in respect of infectious diseases amongst school children.

One school was treated for a minor infestation of rats, two schools were treated for minor infestations of mice.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

247 Visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district. During the year, Sanitary accommodation for the use of employees was increased and improved at one factory. Whilst at another, work was in progress at the end of the year to replace one out of date sanitary block with a more modern sanitary structure.

As most of the businesses seem to have either reached the peak of expansion, or, are increasing staff very slowly no major changes have taken place.

Two new factories were added to the register during the year.

The tables are in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In- spections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	11	52	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.....	46	189	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	4	6	.....	.....
(excluding out-workers' premises). Total	61	247	.....	.....

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. by H.M.</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
			<i>Inspector</i>	<i>Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	2	1	.....	.....	.....

PIGGERIES.

There are about 46 premises used for breeding or fattening on a commercial scale producing a large number of animals for bacon and pork. Whilst some of the buildings used are up-to-date, properly and hygienically constructed others made of scrap material by amateur builders are difficult to keep dry and clean. Fortunately, in almost every case the piggeries are far enough from dwelling houses to avoid causing any complaint.

About 24 small pig styes are used for feeding an average of 2 pigs each for private families, and these are cared for properly and have not been the cause of any complaint.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits and other sites within the urban district the ground being afterwards levelled and used for agricultural purposes.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No statutory action has been necessary during the year for the prevention of Smoke Nuisances. Premises from which such emissions could come are visited occasionally to impress upon the managers and staff the importance of Smoke Abatement both from hygienic and financial standpoint.

No complaints were received of smoke emissions from colliery spoilheaps.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flockfilled articles is carried on.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

RODENT CONTROL.

The usual bi-annual test baitings of 10% of the sewer manholes were carried out and in only three instances were evidence of rats found. These and the manholes on either side were then properly treated with very good results. Subsequent tests proved these manholes to be free from infestation.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier for the destruction of rodents free of charge, whilst business premises are treated for the payment of the actual cost of the treatment.

In two instances farmers and threshing machine operators were cautioned for dismantling ricks without first surrounding them with a suitable wire net to prevent the escape of rats and mice.

As a result of the above, a copy of the regulations was sent to each farmer in the district to remind them of their responsibilities.

I am still of the opinion that farmers should be compelled to notify the Local Authority when they intend to thresh any stack, as a regulation which cannot be properly enforced encourages disregard of all regulations.

Nearly all agricultural holdings in the district are treated four times yearly by the County Agricultural Committees rodent destruction department.

One man is employed part time on rodent control.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				Total.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural.	All Other.	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	18	5,952	66	198	6,234
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as a result of :—					
(a) notification .....	.....	49	.....	5	54
(b) survey or otherwise	7	72	1	4	84
(c) otherwise	5	50	78	7	140
Number of properties inspected which were found to be (Major) ..	.....	.....	1	.....	1
infested by rats .. (Minor)	7	43	.....	3	53
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice .....	.....	30	.....	3	33
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	7	73	.....	6	86
Number of Notices served under Section 4. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Legal Proceedings .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

FOOD AND DRUGS.

There are 99 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored and sold and the standard of accommodation and cleanliness is generally fairly good. The types of business are as follows :—

Bakers	7	Fresh Fish	2
Butchers	12	Fish Fryers	6
Cafes	4	Grocers	49
Canteens	2	Greengrocers	14
Chemists	5	Ice Cream	29
Sweets	3		

The following premises are Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture or sale of various commodities.

BAKERS.

There are now five premises in the district in which baking and confectionery are carried on, and which are registered for the manufacture of preserved foods.

One establishment no longer manufactures foodstuffs as supplies are now bought wholesale.

Premises are generally clean and well maintained and the workers are very conscious of the dangers of food poisoning. The difficulty of lack of space in some of the premises is something not easily remedied.

A total of 141 visits have been made during the year.

BUTCHERS.

12 Butchers Shops are registered, and of these 9 are provided with a piped supply of hot water usually from an instantaneous heater. The others rely upon gas boilers for their hot water and up to now have resisted all suggestions to instal piped supplies.

202 Visits were made during the year.

FISH FRYERS.

There are 6 registered shops in the area, and the premises, utensils and persons are generally clean. Three of the six depend for their hot water supply on

boilers and similar means whilst the remainder have a supply on tap either from domestic supply or by means of an instantaneous heater.

4 Visits were made during the year.

ICE CREAM DEALER'S.

Twenty-nine (29) premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, but only one manufacturer is registered, and he produces only very small quantities at infrequent intervals during the summer months, in plant provided with recording thermometers.

In all these premises a constant supply of hot and cold water is insisted on and the staff are frequently reminded of the ease with which ice cream can be contaminated.

In all, 11 visits were made during the year.

DAIRIES.

There are two premises registered as dairies with the local Authority.

MILK DISTRIBUTORS.

22 Persons are registered as distributors of milk delivered in the unopened containers in which they receive it. A bad feature of this is that although the bottle contents are most probably free from contamination the outside of the bottles are not and any careless householder can undo the careful work of the producer. Secondly no care is taken to see that the bottles are returned to the dairy as clean as possible. The customer returns the bottle without rinsing it, the distributor lets it, and a lot more, standing in the yard to be contaminated by dogs, cats, and birds, and on the journey back they are contaminated by dust through being carried on an open lorry.

Whilst every care is taken to see that the bottles are cleansed thoroughly, surely it is only sensible to try to maintain their cleanliness throughout their life.

OBSERVATIONS.

In this district the food premises are as a whole very well managed, and the fact that no case of food

poisoning has been contracted from material bought at any of the establishments in the past six years proves that traders are very conscious of their responsibilities.

Nevertheless in my opinion, certain matters should be dealt with in any future acts or regulations dealing with the manufacture, storage and sale of foods.

These are :—

1. In addition to hand washing facilities adjoining the sanitary convenience, there should be provided **within** the room itself a washbasin with hot and cold water on tap, together with soap, nail brush and clean towels.
2. White overalls and head coverings should be made compulsory for all workers both male and female.
3. A standard of unobstructed floor area should be set for each person employed.
4. The walls, floors, ceilings and benches and apparatus should be formed of easily cleaned materials and to the satisfaction of the Local Authority.
5. Some attempt should be made to prevent the storage and sale in the one room of such incompatible foodstuffs as fresh and cooked meats, vegetables and potatoes, firewood and ice-cream. Even partitioning such a shop could not ensure that the salesman would wash his hands every time, he handles the different goods.

UNFIT FOODS.

Foods which are surrendered as being unfit for human consumption are burnt in the Council's incinerator.

It has not been necessary to examine any large stocks of food for unfitness.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

257 lbs. 4 ozs.	Cooked Ham.
95 lbs	Cheese.
222 lbs. 4 ozs.	Bacon.
49 lbs.	Veal.

8 lbs.	Sultana Cake.
8 lbs.	Sausage.
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Black Pudding.
1 lb.	Madeira Cake.
50 lbs.	English Mutton.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Polony.
2 lbs.	Shoulder Ham.
179 lbs. 6 ozs.	Cooked Shoulder Ham.
14 lbs.	Chopped Pork.
15 lbs. 11 ozs.	Luncheon Meat.
8 ozs.	Beef Suet.
22 lbs. 15 ozs.	Tongue.
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Butter.
16 lbs.	Corned Beef.
4 lbs.	Dundee Cake.
9 Tins of	Veal.
313 „	Plums.
4 „	Grapes.
61 „	Prunes.
22 „	Beans.
59 „	Tomatoes.
112 „	Evaporated Milk.
5 „	Condensed Milk.
10 „	Minced Beef Loaf.
1 „	Pink Salmon.
16 „	Apricots.
2 „	Loganberries.
3 „	Golden Syrup.
1 „	Cooked Chicken.
12 „	Oranges.
7 „	Danish Pork.
52 „	Peas.
22 „	Steak.
2 „	Tripe and Onions..
1 „	Sardines.
1 „	Grapefruit.
29 „	Pears.
2 „	Bananas.
8 „	Pineapple.
14 „	Peaches.
1 „	Cherries.
1 „	Pork.
12 „	Bristlings.
6 „	Cooked shoulder ham..
1 „	Brisket Loaf.

6	Tins of	Crab.
24	"	Damsons.
10	"	Golden Figs.
4	"	Lobster.
1	"	Pressed Beef.
22	"	Strained Baby food.
19	"	Corned Beef.
2		Pork pies.
3	Jars	Jam.
27	"	Marmalade.
8	Boxes of	Coconut ice.
1	"	Steam pudding.
10	"	Meat pasties.
1	Packet	Lingford's Baking powder.
1	"	Swissroll.
1	Jar	Mixed pickles.
1	Packet	Bisto.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954.

There is only one slaughterhouse in use in the district. It is owned by Boldon Co-operative Society Limited and came into operation in October. The Council have licensed it to operate until July, 1959, as permitted under the act.

The owners agreed to allow any other butcher in the district to have full use of the facilities provided should they require it. Up to the end of December, only three butchers in addition to the Society itself has used the premises.

The buildings provide adequate lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs, a large slaughterhall, and additional hanging space if it should be required.

It is in my opinion large enough to cater adequately for the slaughtering needs of the district.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1932-1954.

There are 17 persons resident in the district who hold Licences granted by the Council to slaughter animals for human consumption. .

All animals are stunned with a captive bolt humane killer before being bled.

Since slaughtering recommenced, the butchers have rapidly regained their skill at stunning animals, and there have been no breaches of the regulations, nor has any deliberate cruelty been observed.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Until October the butchers in the district continued to purchase their stocks of meat from wholesalers in the nearby large towns of Newcastle, South Shields and Sunderland. The majority of meat consumed in the area is still obtained dead from these sources. Due to keen competition these dressed carcasses have in the main reached the shops in better condition than during rationing, and the carriers have much improved their handling and transport methods.

It is unfortunate that so far only a few of the larger transporters are using special vehicles, but it is hoped that soon such vans will be the rule rather than the exception.

Several vans used by retail butchers have been examined during the year, and whilst no complaint could be made with regard to cleanliness it is a pity that no manufacturer has attempted to make special mass produced bodies for such vehicles, fitted with washing facilities, at a small cost.

During the three months from October to December, the following animals were slaughtered and inspected.

MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	102	—	—	152	147	401
Number inspected	102	—	—	152	147	401
All diseases except Tuberculosis—Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	36	—	—	—	2	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	35.2%	—	—	—	1.36%	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.96%	—	—	—	0.7%	—

The following organs and part carcasses were condemned

	<i>Whole Livers</i>	<i>Part Livers</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Cattle	9	27	2	—	191 lbs.
Pigs	1	—	1	1	14 lbs.

All unfit foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed in the Council's incinerator.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Durham County Council are the responsible Authority for the administration of those sections of the Food and Drugs Acts which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food, and they regularly take samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

During 1954, 67 samples were taken, and one person was cautioned for selling sausage deficient in meat content.

